

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10881 01 OF 02 151827Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 10881

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TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: JULY 13, P.M. CONTINUATION OF GENERAL DEBATE INCLUDED STATEMENTS BY SECGEN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO), PORTUGAL, GREECE, ROMANIA, NIGERIA, GDR AND OAS PERMREP TO GENEVA. SECGEN IMCO SAID LACK OF MARITIME EXPERTISE WAS THE MOST SERIOUS TRADE HANDICAP FOR LDCS. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN SHIP-BUILDING HAVE RESULTED IN NEED FOR IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AND SEAFARING SAFETY MEASURES. IMCO HAS TAKEN SPECIFIC STEPS DIRECTED AT BOTH PROBLEMS. PORTUGUESE REP ECHOED PREVIOUS LDCS IN LAMENTING DISMAL OUTLOOK FOR LDCS' ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT, AS A RESULT OF SLOW PROGRESS ON NIEO. HE SAID 1978 WOULD BE KNOWN AS THE YEAR WHEN GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE WAS ACCEPTED BY MOST NATIONS. HE CALLED FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REFORM AND PLEDGED PORTUGAL'S SUPPORT FOR RESTRUCTURING UN AGENCIES, AND FOR ECOSOC INITIATIVES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. GREEK REP EMPHASIZED DESIRABILITY FOR ECOSOC TO ENCOURAGE MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION AND REDIRECTION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10881 01 OF 02 151827Z

MENT POLICIES. HE PRAISED UNCTAD EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE SOME LDC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. ROMANIAN REP ACCUSED DEVELOPED NATIONS OF SELFISHLY PULLING THEMSELVES AWAY FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS, WHILE IGNORING THE PLIGHT OF LDCS. HE CALLED FOR GATT TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL MANDATE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ALL NATIONS. NIGERIAN REP BLAMED NIEO FAILURE ON LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPED

COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS BEING STALLED BY A "COLOR LINE" BUT THAT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CLIMATE NOW RIGHT FOR COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT. HE VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNED TNCS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR TACITLY SUPPORTING RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA BY CONTINUING DOING BUSINESS THERE. GDR REP'S STATEMENT WAS MERELY A REPEAT OF SOCIALIST RHETORIC, COMPLETE WITH REFERENCES TO MARX AND ENGELS AND AN INVITATION TO ALL STATES TO JOIN THE GDR EXPERIENCE IN SOCIALISM. OAS REP MENTIONED SLIGHT ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPERIENCED BY LDCS IN THE OAS REGION. HE ALSO CITED OAS CRITICISM OF US FOR DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES UNDER THE SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES AND THE 1974 TRADE ACT.

2. SECGEN IMCO SAID MANY LDCS DESIRED EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN MARITIME SHIPPING BUT THAT LACK OF MARITIME EXPERTISE WAS THEIR MOST SERIOUS HANDICAP. ALSO, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN SHIPBUILDING HAVE CREATED A NEED FOR IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON SHIPPING AND SEAFARING. IMCO HAS TAKEN SPECIFIC STEPS TO DEAL WITH BOTH PROBLEMS BY APPOINTING REGIONAL MARITIME ADVISORS IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA; APPOINTING INTER-REGIONAL ADVISORS ON MARITIME SAFETY AND LEGISLATION AND PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION; INCLUSION OF LDCS IN TECHNICAL MEETINGS; ORGANIZING SPECIAL WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS AND TRAINING PERSONNEL. IMCO IS GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO ECOSOC
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 10881 01 OF 02 151827Z

INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. PORTUGUESE REP EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT SLOW PROGRESS ON NIEO BUT ADDED THAT 1978 WOULD BE KNOWN AS YEAR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE CONCEPT WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL NATIONS. TO SMOOTH THE WAY FOR INTERDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURAL REFORM AND EFFECTIVE MACHINERY FOR REACHING CLEARLY-ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES ARE NEEDED. A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL PLAN FOR ASSISTANCE IS ALSO REQUIRED, SINCE MANY PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED AT NATIONAL LEVELS. PORTUGAL PLEDGES ITS SUPPORT FOR RESTRUCTURING. IT ALSO SUPPORTS ECOSOC'S EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND ITS INITIATIVES AIMED AT MAKING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LDCS. DISSEMINATION OF SUCH INFORMATION IS THE BEGINNING PROCESS TOWARDS MEETING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY GOALS.

4. GREEK REP CALLED FOR ECOSOC TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON ENCOURAGING MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND A REDIRECTION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN ORDER TO

ELIMINATE UNEMPLOYMENT AS A MAJOR LDC PROBLEM. WHILE GENERAL RESULTS OF NIEO HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING, UNCTAD'S INITIATIVES IN FOOD AID, INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT AND GATT WERE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD ALLEVIATING SOME LDC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE INITIATIVES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AN EFFECTIVE SCHEME BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE LDCS WITH GREATER ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS. DEVELOPED AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH A SCHEME, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN ALL NATIONS ARE FACING RECESSION.

5. ROMANIAN REP BLAMED SLOW PROGRESS OF NIEO PARTLY ON

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10881 02 OF 02 151900Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
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R 141853Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2093
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 10881

DEVELOPED NATIONS SEEKING TO ADJUST THEIR SHAKENED ECONOMIES WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR LDC ASPIRATIONS. WORSENING SITUATION OF LDC ECONOMIES BEING EXACERBATED BY PROTECTIONIST POLICIES OF "WESTERN" COUNTRIES. EXTENSION OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE INSTABILITY IN MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THREATENS THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF ALL NATIONS. THE PRESENT ECONOMIC STRUCTURE HAS DEMONSTRATED ITSELF INCAPABLE OF INSURING ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH IN EITHER GROUP OF NATIONS. DEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE SHOWN A LACK OF POLITICAL WILL TO CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASING THE PACE OF LDC ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE GATT, FOR EXAMPLE, INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON THE INTERESTS OF A SELECT GROUP OF NATIONS, SHOULD RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL MANDATE WHICH TAKES ALL NATIONS INTO CONSIDERATION. ROMANIA SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF A REAL CODE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. IT IS NOW

NECESSARY TO MOVE FROM RHETORIC TO POSITIVE ACTION. WITHIN ECOSOC, THERE SEEMS NOW TO BE A CONVERGENCE OF MUTUAL INTERESTS OF STATES, ADJUSTING TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. IT IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS ON THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10881 02 OF 02 151900Z

6. NIGERIAN REP SAID THE SEARCH FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION HAD BEEN STALLED BY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS. THE REAL PROBLEM IN NIEO DIALOGUE WAS LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT. AS A RESULT AGREEMENTS ON PROCEDURES, I.E. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, COMMON FUND AND CONDUCT OF CREDITOR AND DEBTOR NATIONS, HAVE CONTINUED TO ELUDE US. NIGERIA VIEWS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AS THE POOREST AREA OF THE THIRD WORLD. THERE SEEMS TO BE A "COLOR LINE" FORESTALLING ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. "YEARS OF DOUBLE-TALK, YEARS OF AFRICANS COOPERATING WITH WHITE COLONIALISTS AND YEARS OF AFRICAN ENSLAVEMENT SHOULD STRIKE A NOTE OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES." YET TNCS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN OPPRESSING THE BLACK MAN. TNCS, WITH THEIR QUEST FOR CHEAP BLACK LABOR "CONTINUE TO SUPPORT VORSTER AND HIS LACKEYS" IN OPPRESSION, ENSLAVEMENT AND GENOCIDE. NIGERIA HOPES OTHER NATIONS WILL FOLLOW ITS LEAD IN TAKING ACTIONS AGAINST TNCS DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. EEC AND OECD COUNTRIES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO "HEED THE WRITING ON THE WALL" AND PRESSURE THEIR TNCS TO DISENGAGE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

7. GDR (OBSERVER) REP RECITED A LITANY OF GDR ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER SOCIALISM AND CASTIGATED THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM FOR EXPLOITING DEVELOPING NATIONS THROUGH INEQUITABLE TRADE BALANCES AND TRANSFER OF HUGE PROFITS. HE PROFFERED THAT THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ACTIVITIES OF "INTERNATIONAL BANKING MONOPOLIES". HE INVITED ALL STATES TO JOIN THE GDR IN SOCIALISM. REFERRING TO MARX AND ENGELS' THEORIES ON DIVISION OF LABOR, GDR REP ADMONISHED LDCS THAT CAPITALIST STATES' DEVELOPMENT HAD REAPED THE LDCS NO BENEFITS AND THAT THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE WAS BEING USED TO FAULT LDCS FOR THE ECONOMIC SITUATION CREATED BY THE CAPITALISTIC PROTECTION-

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 10881 02 OF 02 151900Z

ISTS.

8. OAS REP MENTIONED THE SLIGHT, BUT UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED,

ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPERIENCED BY LDCS IN THE OAS REGION. HE SAID THE GROWTH MOSTLY WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NATIONAL POLICIES OF DIVERSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE AND THE ABSORPTION OF CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, SOME LDCS WITHIN THE REGION ARE STILL CONFRONTING PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, INEQUITABLE INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND LACK OF ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS. STRENGTHENING THE WORLD BANK AND OTHER LIKE AGENCIES IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO LDCS IN THE OAS REGION. THE PROTECTIONISTS TRENDS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS OF THE REGION WERE DISRUPTING THEIR COMMITMENT TO MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES. THE US, FOR EXAMPLE, IS UNDER CRITICISM FROM MEMBER STATES (LDCS) FOR ITS SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES AND THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, WHICH EXCLUDE ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FROM BENEFITS, IN A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER, BECAUSE THEY ARE MEMBERS OF OPEC. HOWEVER, OAS HAS FAITH THAT "THE US IS COMMITTED TO BRINGING ABOUT NIEO".
VANDEN HEUVEL

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